UNITED STATES DEPART TOF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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CONDITION

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CHECK ONE

\_\_EXCELLENT

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X\_GOOD \_FAIR \_\_RUINS

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## DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Hallie B. Soden House, a large two and one-half story frame building, was designed by Charles Squires in the Eastlake style. The most distinguishing feature of this style is a type of ornamentation, as seen on the west veranda of the Soden house, which is largely the product of the chisel, gouge and lathe. The posts of the veranda will often, as in this case, resemble table legs, and knobs of various forms are frequently employed.

The house is located on a large four acre lot in a mixed but stable residential and commercial neighborhood. The house, which faces west, was built in a T-shape to provide cross-ventilation in all the rooms.

The main facade has a central wing which projects slightly forward from the building. An elevated one-story veranda with Eastlake detailing, as described above, extends across the front of the building. The main entrance is a single wood door with recessed sidelights and is accented by a small pediment with a sunburst motif which breaks the roofline of the veranda. There is a small rectangular window to either side of the main door. On the second story above the door is a triple window which has been set in a horseshoe arch. The central wing is crowned by a gable with finely carved gingerbread filling a triangular area at the top of the ridge. Below the gingerbread is a double window with a transom. On each story to either side of the central wing is a rectangular window.

The treatment of the exterior walls, which have traditionally been painted green and trimmed in white, is very interesting. Underneath the clapboard walls up to the second story is a brick wall. Plaster has been applied directly to the brick on the interior. The second story was built using typical frame construction techniques. The only apparent reason for this interesting use of the brick is William Soden's desire to make the house stronger against the Kansas winds. On the first story the walls have been surfaced with clapboard, but on the second story and in the gable the walls have been surfaced with alternating bands of clapboard and fish scale shingles.

There is no decorative trim on the other facades of the house. A plain, one story screened porch with a shed roof runs the south length of the east wing. An outside entrance to the storm cellar is also located on the south facade.

The hipped roof along with the veranda roof, has been resurfaced with light colored composition shingles.

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HALLIE B. SODEN HOUSE

Form 10-300a (July 1969) UNITATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

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7.

The interior plan of the Hallie B. Soden house was designed around a wide center hallway. A staircase with a carved wood railing dominates this space. There are formal parlors to either side of the hallway. The second story is also arranged off a central hall which is lighted by the horseshoe window. The floors throughout the house have recently been covered with wall-to-wall carpet. Access was not gained to the private rooms of the house.

## PERIOD AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW \_\_PREHISTORIC ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC \_\_COMMUNITY PLANNING \_\_LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE \_\_\_RELIGION \_\_1400-1499 \_\_ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC \_\_CONSERVATION \_\_LAW \_\_SCIENCE \_\_1500-1599 \_\_AGRICULTURE \_\_ECONOMICS \_\_LITERATURE \_\_SCULPTURE \_1600-1699 X\_ARCHITECTURE \_\_EDUCATION MILITARY \_\_SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN \_\_ART \_1700-1799 \_\_ENGINEERING \_\_MUSIC THEATER X\_1800-1899 \_\_COMMERCE \_PHILOSOPHY \_\_EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT \_\_TRANSPORTATION 1900-\_\_COMMUNICATIONS \_\_INDUSTRY \_\_POLITICS/GOVERNMENT \_OTHER (SPECIFY) \_\_INVENTION

1893

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Charles W. Squires

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Hallie B. Soden house was built in 1893 by W. T. Soden for his daughter Hallie and her husband. The house was designed by Charles W. Squires, one of Emporia's first trained architects, and he may also have been the builder. It was constructed from lumber prepared at W.T. Soden's mill, and much of the furniture was made at his furniture factory.

W.T. Soden was one of the earliest pioneers in Lyon county, having arrived in 1857. He built a dam and established a flour mill at Emporia on the Cottonwood river in 1858. The mill prospered and he became one of the best known millers in the state. He had many other business interests over the years, including a bank, furniture factory, gas company, electric power company, and accumulated a sizeable fortune.

His daughter Hallie married David (Hoss) Laws in 1891, and the house was apparently built as a wedding present. It was located across the street from the old family home; Soden later built a third house nearby for a son. An exact completion date is not known, although the date 1893 is carved in one of the front steps. The current owner, the daughter of Hallie and David Laws, has stated that the house was not yet ready for occupancy when she was born August 30, 1893. By 1902 the Laws were divorced, and Mrs. Laws retained the house. By 1908 she had married Fred W. Currie, a farmer. City directories listed her by that name into the 1920's, but by 1930 she had taken back her maiden name and was known as Mrs. Hallie B. Soden.

The original plans prepared by Squires are in the owner's possession.

The house is significant for its architectural merits, having been designed by a well-known local architect and displaying excellent detailing and characteristics of the Eastlake style. The house is now the home of Hallie Soden's daughter and is still furnished with many original pieces made by Soden's factory specifically for the house. The Hallie B. Soden house is an excellent representation of a way of life in Kansas at the turn of the century and shows the combined skills of the most talented local craftsmen of that era.

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAI	PHICAL REFER	RENCES	
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Blackmar, F. W., editor, K Publishing Co., 1912)			y (Chicago, Standard
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I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST:

GPO 892.453

DATE

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Form No. 10-300a (Rev. 40-74) .

UNITED STATES DEPART TOF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

## NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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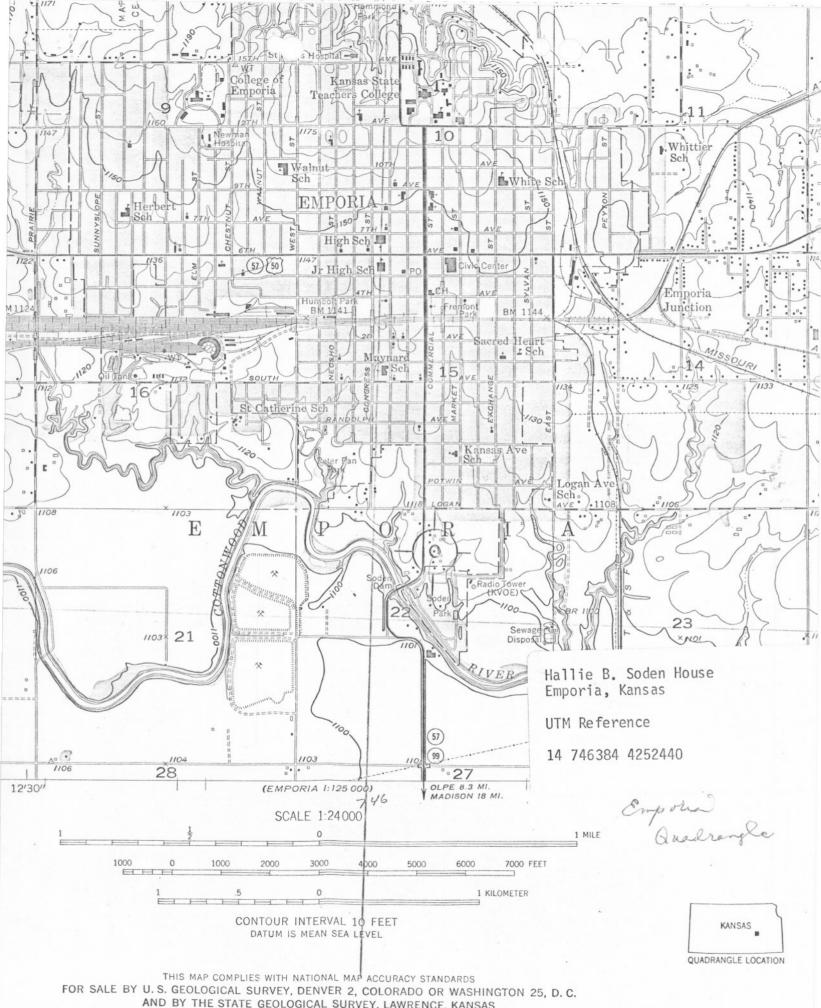
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AND BY THE STATE GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, LAWRENCE, KANSAS A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST